

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending in this application. The Examiner has restricted the claims to 10 groups:

Group I: claims 1-9, 50-52, and 55, drawn to methods for screening animals to determine those more likely to produce a larger litter;

Group II: claims 10-16, 45, 46, 54, 55, and 56 drawn to methods for screening animals to determine those more likely to exhibit improved meat quality traits, wherein a polymorphism in the PRKAG3 gene resulting in a valine at position 199 of the polypeptide and the arginine at position 200 OR an isoleucine at position 100 and arginine at position 200;

Group III: claims 17-24, 45, and 50-56, drawn to methods for screening animals to determine those more likely to exhibit improved meat quality traits, wherein a polymorphism in the PRKAG3 gene resulting in a threonine at position 30;

Group IV: claims 25-32, 45, 50-56, drawn to methods for screening animals to determine those more likely to exhibit improved meat quality traits, wherein a polymorphism in the PRKAG3 gene resulting in a serine at position 52;

Group V: claims 33-34, drawn to nucleic acids encoding a PRKAG3 protein with a serine at position 52;

Group VI: claims 35-36, drawn to a PRKAG3 protein with a serine at position 52;

Group VII: claims 37, 39, 41, and 43, drawn to nucleic acids encoding a PRKAG3 protein with an isoleucine or valine at position 199 in an arginine at position 200;

Group VIII: claims 38, 40, 42, and 44, drawn to a PRKAG3 protein with an isoleucine or valine at position 199 and an arginine at position 200;

Group IX: claims 47-49, drawn to a method for identifying genetic markers; and

Group X: claims 57-58, drawn to methods for screening animals to determine those more likely to exhibit improved meat quality traits and larger litter sizes which screen for the presence of a short interspersed polymorphism element.

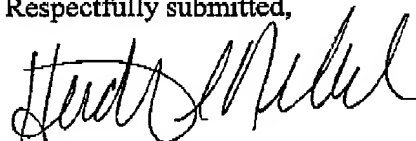
In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects to prosecute claims 10-16, 45, 46, 54, 55, and 56. Applicant submits that no separate search is required to search the non-elected groups as all claims are related as product and process of use, and can be reviewed in a

single search. Reconsideration is requested. Applicants submit that no new search is required as all polymorphisms relate to the same gene, namely PRKAG3. While different polymorphisms are claimed, all are still within the same gene. To the extent other method and product claims are present, they all relate to the same polymorphisms within the same gene. In the event the requirement is maintained, claims 1-9, 17-44, 47-53 and 57-58 will be canceled upon indication of allowable subject matter.

A request for an extension of time in connection with this election is being submitted. Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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